IN SUMMARY

Awaiting the Temblor
At least five Midwest communities that lie near a fault line have agreed to close schools for several days in December because of a prediction that a major earthquake will occur then. **Page 5.**

In Earth Orbit
The Governor of Kentucky and an Arkansas businessman are working the halls of the Congress and the White House to win support for separate plans to launch educational satellites. **Page 8.**

Chelsea at One Year
One year after Boston University took over the management of the public schools in Chelsea, Mass., the school system there is in a state of radical transition, a new report says. **Page 9.**

Improving Urban Schools
The Council of Urban Boards of Education last week unveiled six goals for improving urban schools to complement the broader goals set by President Bush and the nation's governors. **Page 10.**

Tar-Heel Reform
A proposal by North Carolina's schools chief for sweeping changes in precollegiate education has touched off a heated debate over the direction of school reform in the state. **Page 15.**

Failing the Test
Six years after it was created as the centerpiece of then-Gov. Richard L. Thornburgh's plan for improving the schools, Pennsylvania's student-testing program appears to be barely surviving. **Page 15.**

Hispanic Panel Created
President Bush last week signed an executive order creating a panel on the education of Hispanics and directing federal agencies to help advance their educational opportunities. **Page 22.**

Awards	28
Capital Update	24
Colleges	12
Commentary	26 and 36
Curriculum	6
Deadlines	29
Events	28
Federal File	22
Letters	27
Marketplace	30
Research	8
State Journal	15

EDUCATION WEEK (ISSN 0277-4232) is published 40 times per year (weekly except for the first week in January, the last week in June, the month of July, the first four weeks in August, and the last two weeks in December) by Editorial Projects in Education, Incorporated. Editorial and advertising sales offices are located at 4301 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 250, Washington, D.C. 20008. (202) 364-4114. Subscriptions: U.S.: $49.94 for 40 issues. Canada: $72.94 for 40 issues. Foreign: $114.94 (airmail) and $82.94 (surface mail) for 40 issues. Second-class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to EDUCATION WEEK, P.O. Box 2083, Marion, Ohio 43305. Volume X, Issue 5.

ACROSS THE NATION

NATIONAL

Public Schools Spent $4,890 Per Pupil Last Year, N.E.A. Says

The nation's public schools spent an average of $4,890 per pupil in 1989-90, an increase of $283 over the previous year, according to an annual report by the National Education Association.

New Jersey, in the midst of implementing major finance reform, surpassed New York as the state with the highest per-pupil expenditure, $8,439, an increase of $868.

Following New Jersey were New York with $8,094; Connecticut, $7,934; the District of Columbia, $7,407; and Alaska, $7,252. Lowest was Utah, with $2,733 in per-pupil spending.

Picking up the slack from state governments, local governments contributed slightly more (45 percent) in overall funding to elementary and secondary education than they did in 1988-89, while the federal government's share held even at 6.3 percent.

The annual report compiled by the teachers' union showed relatively stable enrollment from 1988 to 1989. Nevada and Florida experienced the greatest growth, climbing 5.8 percent and 4.0 percent, respectively. Enrollment in public schools in the District of Columbia decreased the most, 4.7 percent, while West Virginia lost 2.3 percent of its student enrollment.

■ **U.S. schools have earned only a mixed report card in the past 20 years when it comes to educating black students**, a recent study has concluded.

Schools are more desegregated, and more black high-school graduates are completing basic academic and college-recommended credits, according to a report released late last month by the National Black Child Development Institute in Washington.

"The Status of African American Children" examines social and demographic changes in American society since 1970, paying particular attention to how black children fare in the nation's health-care, child-care, child-welfare, and education systems. School enrollment has improved significantly in the past 20 years, the report said, and the large racial differences in the proportion of high-school dropouts between the ages of 16 and 21 have largely vanished.

But black children are suspended and repeat grades much more often than their white counterparts, the study said. More than one-quarter of all black children under age 18 had repeated a grade in 1988. At every age group, black children were almost twice as likely as white children to repeat grades.

And almost 23 percent of black children ages 12 to 17 have been suspended from school, compared with 12 percent of children generally, the report said.

■ **This year's college undergraduates are paying between 5 percent and 8 percent more for their education than last year**, according to the College Board's annual survey of colleges.

The average price for tuition and fees at four-year public colleges this year is $1,809, up 7 percent over last year, and costs at two-year public colleges average $884, a 5 percent increase, according to the survey. The average cost for out-of-state students at public four-year schools is $2,948, the survey said.

Students at private four-year and two-year schools are paying an average of $9,391 and $5,003, respectively, 8 percent more than last year, the survey said.

In addition to tuition and fees, students who live in college housing pay between $3,160 and $4,150 for room and board, up 5 percent to 7 percent over last year, and $1,770 to $2,020 for books and supplies, transportation, and personal expenses, according to the survey.

Students who live off campus are paying between $1,930 and $2,230 for books and supplies, transportation, and personal expenses, the survey said, and between $1,280 and $1,610 for housing.

STATES

Board Backs Longer School Year, Alternative-Certification Plan

The Maryland Board of Education last week voted to extend the school year from 180 days to 200 days, giving state schoolchildren the longest year in the nation.

Under the plan, which must be approved by the Governor and legislature, five days would be added each year for four years beginning in 1992-93.

The extra days were the most controversial proposal in the package of school reforms proposed last spring by Joseph L. Shilling, state school superintendent, said Beth Briscoe-Campbell, a Department of Education spokesman. The board voted 6-to-3 in favor of the measure, rejecting an alternative proposal to lengthen the school day by at least an hour. The school day is currently 6½ hours.

The extended school year will be one part of a "Schools for Success" reform initiative that will be presented to Gov. William Donald Shaefer before the end of the year. If the Governor approves the package, the legislature will vote on it early next year, Ms. Briscoe-Campbell said.

Mr. Shilling estimated the state's share of the cost would be $53.3 million for the first extended year. Local districts will also face higher costs and will have to choose where in the school calendar the days will be added.

The board also adopted an alternative-certification policy that will allow college graduates who have bachelor's degrees to teach elementary or secondary school.

Under the plan, graduates with a B average or better in their major area of study can enter the program. Candidates will be required to take 90 hours of pedagogy during their first year of teaching, and will be supervised by a mentor during that year.

■ **The South Carolina State Supreme Court has upheld a jury's award of $225,000 to a school district that sued a former asbestos manufacturer for negligence.**

Edward Westbrook, a lawyer for the Kershaw County school district, said the court's ruling last month marked the first time that a state's highest court has upheld a post-trial review of an asbestos-negligence claim. The decision will serve as a legal precedent for other lawsuits, he added.

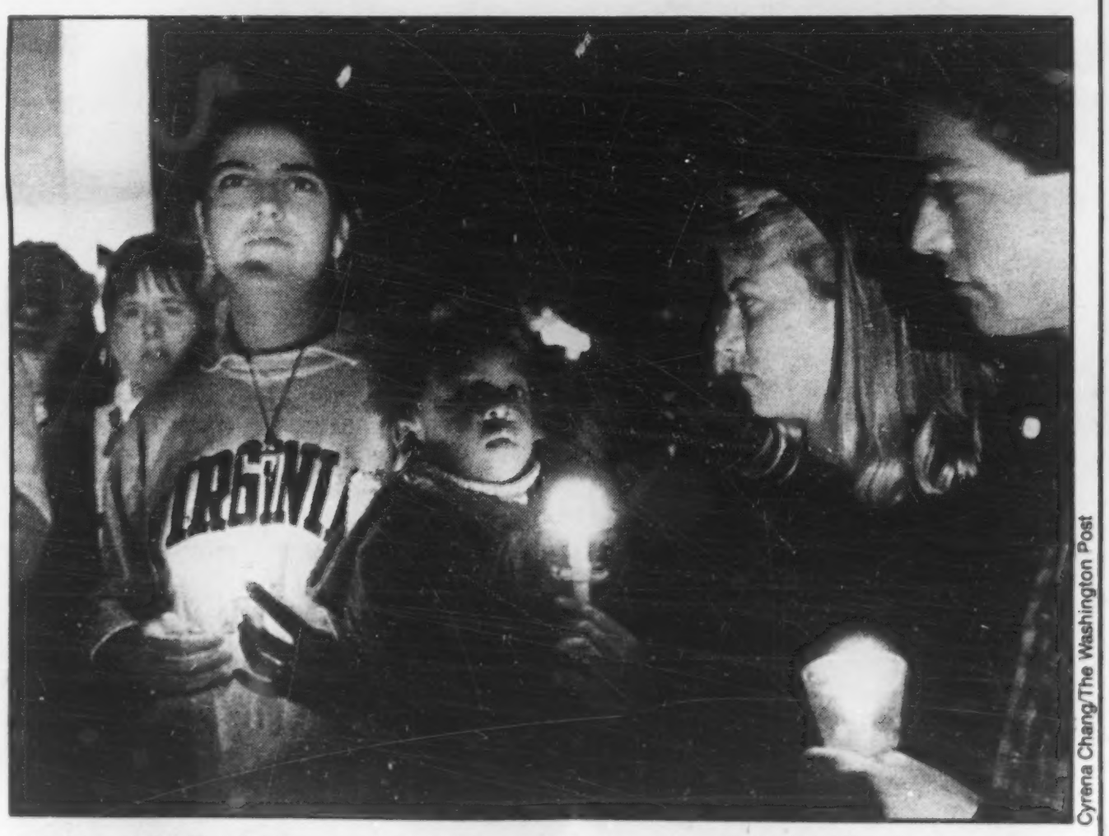
He said the court's review of the suit against U.S. Gypsum also marked the first time a state high court has upheld the submission of certain types of evidence in asbestos-negligence lawsuits. The vast majority of such cases are settled out of court, he said.

■ **A federal jury in Tampa, Fla., has convicted the former head of student loans for one of the nation's largest student-aid lenders for his role in submitting $35 million in false default claims.**

Jeffrey A. Flatten of St. Petersburg, Fla., was convicted Sept. 20 in U.S. District Court on 25 felony counts stemming from a student-loan scheme hatched by officials at Florida Federal Savings Bank. At the time, the bank was the nation's third-largest lender of Guaranteed Student Loans.

His sentencing is scheduled for November.

A Light in the Darkness



Cyrena Chang/The Washington Post

Two-year-old Freida Bynum, who lives with her mother in a Washington homeless shelter, joins with Elizabeth Hollister, left, Laura Smith, and Michael Vagnucci at a recent candlelight vigil in support of the first world summit on children. The meeting was to be held last weekend at the United Nations in New York.

DISTRICTS

State Orders Kentucky County To Revise Spec.-Ed. Programs

The state of Kentucky has ordered school officials in Boyd County to take steps to correct violations in their school system's special-education program.

The orders, part of an agreement reached last month between the state education department and local school officials, were prompted by a state investigation of the district's special-education programs.

The investigative team found that some students had been placed in special-education classes without first undergoing a complete evaluation. Of the 21 student records reviewed by the team, no student's folder contained all the documentation needed to qualify a student for special education.

At the same time, state officials said, other handicapped students who needed services were not getting them.

"Each school took care of its own special-education programs rather than making it a districtwide obligation," said Gordon Nichols, a spokesman for the state education department. "It's easy to lose a child in between the changing of schools."

State officials also instructed the district to reimburse its special-education fund for the services of a guidance counselor whose salary had been paid with federal special-education aid but who also dealt with non-disabled students.

The investigation was among the latest in a series of problems for the district. Its superintendent also faces an unrelated charge of official misconduct for allegedly lying to the state about overcrowded classrooms. And state school officials last week began a curriculum audit of the district.

■ **Chancellor Joseph A. Fernandez of the New York City schools is developing a plan to distribute condoms to students by the end of the school year as a way to reduce the incidence of AIDS and unwanted adolescent pregnancies.**

Kim Bohen, a spokesman for Mr. Fernandez, said details about how and where the condoms will be distributed have not yet been worked out. The plan will be developed within a month and will be presented to the board for its approval, she said.

In 1986, the district distributed condoms to students through school-based health clinics, but stopped after several board members opposed the program. Ms. Bohen said two of the current board's seven members were serving in 1986, and both had opposed the program at that time.

■ **The U.S. Education Department has awarded a $510,000 grant to an educational partnership formed by a liberal-arts college and a New Jersey school district that is designed to develop new strategies for teaching mathematics and science to young students.**

"Project WHY," a partnership between Ramapo College and the Englewood public schools, is designed to devise strategies, teaching methods, and curricula to improve the inquiry skills and math competency of students in pre-kindergarten through 7th grade.

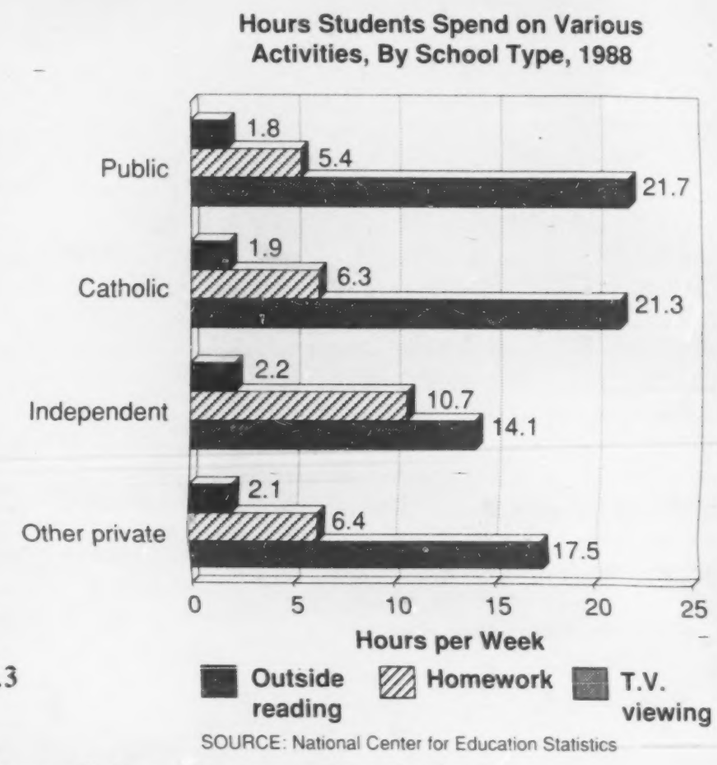
As part of the program, which also is being funded by CPC International, a locally based food-service company, members of the college faculty will assist in teaching various skills, and the college will make its laboratory facilities available to students.

DIMENSIONS

How 8th Graders Use Their Time

Eighth graders in private, nonreligious schools in 1988 spent substantially less time watching television and more time reading and doing homework than their peers in other schools.

According to data contained in the National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988, students in these "independent" schools reported spending an average of 14.1 hours a week viewing television, compared with 21.7 hours for public- and 21.3 hours for Catholic-school 8th graders. The figure for students in private religious schools was 17.5 hours.



SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics

Eighth graders also reported spending somewhat more time reading (2.2 hours a week), and considerably more time doing homework (10.7 hours a week), than did students in the other settings.

Over all, students reported spending 1.8 hours on outside reading, 5.6 hours on homework, and 21.4 hours on television watching a week. Girls read considerably more (2.1 hours) than boys (1.5 hours). Asian students reported above-average time on homework (6.7 hours), and black students said they watched more television than average (27.6 hours).

The NELS:88 study, conducted by the Education Department's National Center for Education Statistics, includes data gathered from nearly 25,000 students nationwide. Copies of the report, "A Profile of the American 8th Grader," are available for $9 each from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

UPDATE

■ **The Boston City Council and Mayor Raymond L. Flynn have approved placing a binding referendum before voters next month asking for a change in the way the city's schools are governed.** *(See Education Week, Sept. 19, 1990.)*

As of late last week, the measure was awaiting the approval of the state legislature and Gov. Michael S. Dukakis, both of which were required by Oct. 1 if the measure was to be placed on the Nov. 6 ballot.

The measure would create a nine-member committee made up of an unusual combination of five members elected from districts and four appointed by the Mayor.

In a compromise designed to appeal to Boston legislators who supported giving parents greater involvement, it also would create a system for allowing parent councils at each school to select the school principal from a list of nominees recommended by the district superintendent.

■ **School officials in Genessee County, Mich., must set up an early-intervention program for disabled children at risk of developing self-injurious behavior patterns** under the terms of an unusual court settlement reached last month.

The agreement comes in a case involving a 9-year-old child whose head-banging behavior had become life threatening. The child, Amber Van Duser, could die if a shunt draining excess fluid from her brain is dislodged by a blow to the head. *(See Education Week, Jan. 17, 1990.)*

The girl's parents had sued Genessee school officials in an effort to force them to allow her to wear a controversial electric-shock device designed to curb her head-banging behavior in school.

While school officials agreed months ago to allow the child to use the device as long as it was medically prescribed, the parents continued to press the lawsuit "to make sure that no kid ends up in Amber's situation," said the Van Dusers' lawyer, Richard Landau.

Under the terms of the agreement, approved Sept. 21 in U.S. District Court, school officials must hire a consultant to devise a behavioral-management policy for the district and recommend a plan for providing special-education services to young children at risk of developing such dangerous behaviors.

"A lot of times this starts out as head-slapping or hair-pulling—something less noticeable," Mr. Landau said. "These kids just aren't being picked up."

■ **Students at Fargo North High School in Fargo, N.D., last month walked out of showings of the "Channel One" classroom news show, prompting the school board to appoint a committee to reconsider the school's decision to show the controversial program.**

Several hundred students walked out of their homeroom classes on Sept. 17 and 18, arguing that the show was too immature for high-school students.

The students returned to their homerooms after the school principal, Ed Raymond, threatened them with suspensions. Last week, the school board agreed to reconsider the school's showing of the program.

"I'm in favor of the concept of the program, but [Channel One] is just not deep enough for for 11th and 12th graders," Mr. Raymond said.

The program, produced by Whittle Communications of Knoxville, Tenn., debuted last spring amid controversy over the 2 minutes of commercials that accompany the 10 minutes of news. Schools are loaned a satellite dish and TV monitors in exchange for making the program required viewing for students. *(See Education Week, Feb. 21, 1990.)*

The program returned to the airwaves Aug. 27 and now is being shown in about 3,500 junior- and senior-high schools nationwide, according to Gary Belis, a Whittle spokesman. Some 4,600 schools are under contract to receive the program; Whittle's goal is 8,000 schools.

■ **The Marriott Corporation has signed an agreement with Domino's Pizza under which Marriott will offer the pizzas in the school-lunch programs it operates.**

Under the agreement, a local Domino's will be allowed to deliver its pizzas to school kitchens. A spokesman for Marriott, which runs the school-meals programs of more than 200 districts, said program officials in each district will decide whether to participate in the program, and how often the pizzas will be served.

Marriott officials said the students will be able to purchase the pizzas as an à la carte food item. Such items are not offered at discount to students who are eligible to receive free- or reduced-price meals.

Nationally, a growing number of districts are turning to private companies for all or part of their school-meals program. *(See Education Week, April 11, 1990.)*

Domino's is the second pizza company to target the in-school lunch market. Earlier this year, Pizza Hut announced a marketing campaign aimed at schools.

PEOPLE

■ **George F. Garcia**, who has led the Kansas City, Mo., district through its massive desegregation order the past three years, has announced that he will resign effective July 31, 1991.

Mr. Garcia, 47, said he made his decision in June when the school board voted to delay a decision on whether to renew his contract, which expires next year.

During the past three years, the district has developed the bulk of its magnet-school program to help desegregate its schools. The district has been under a federal court order to desegregate since 1984.

School-board members and teachers' union officials praised Mr. Garcia's performance.

The district will soon begin the search for a replacement, officials said.

MILESTONES

■ **Robert L. Thorndike**, one of the nation's leading experts on educational testing, died Sept. 21, the day before his 80th birthday, at an Olympia, Wash., hospital after a short illness.

The author of several books on testing and measurement, Mr. Thorndike was perhaps best known as the co-author of the widely used Cognitive Abilities Test, which was originally called the Lorge-Thorndike Intelligence Test. He was also senior author

Robert L. Thorndike

of the fourth edition of the Stanford-Binet I.Q. test.

Mr. Thorndike, the Richard March Hoe professor emeritus of education and psychology at Columbia University Teachers College, was a member of the Teachers College faculty from 1935 until 1976, and he continued to teach there until 1980. A memorial service will be held at the college at a date to be announced.

R4800-2

EDUCATION WEEK

American Education's Newspaper of Record | Volume X, Number 6 · October 10, 1990 | *© 1990 Editorial Projects in Education / $2.50*

2 Schools Aimed For Black Males Set in Milwaukee

Critics Raise Moral And Legal Questions

By Millicent Lawton

Prompting critics to raise a host of educational, moral, and legal questions, the Milwaukee school board has voted to create two schools to cater to the academic and social needs of black male children.

Officials in Milwaukee and elsewhere say the schools, which are scheduled to open next fall, will be the first of their kind in the nation.

The African-American immersion schools—one will be an elementary school, the other a middle school—will offer a curriculum emphasizing African-American studies, officials said.

The schools, which will accept girls and youngsters from all races, will also seek to foster self-esteem and responsibility among the students by offering school-time counseling, possibly an extended school day, and discussion of such topics as male sexuality and entrepreneurship, officials explained.

In addition, they said, the schools, which district officials have compared to existing city schools that specialize in the teaching of a foreign language, will likely have a higher proportion of black teachers than does a typical Milwaukee school.

Backers of the program say such a radical step is necessary to try to stem the devastating cycle of academic underachievement that often presages the disproportionate number of black men who end up unemployed, jailed, or murdered. *(See Education Week, Sept. 26, 1990.)*

But the proposal is not without controversy, and it has prompted critics in both the black and white communities in Mil-

Continued on Page 12

Jym Wilson/The Burlington Free Press

Vermont teachers discuss the state's new mathematics and writing assessment, which is scheduled to begin on a pilot basis in about 135 schools next month.

Large 'Faculty Meeting' Ushers In Pioneering Assessment in Vermont

By Robert Rothman

BURLINGTON, VT.—Convening what the state schools chief called "the largest faculty meeting I have ever seen," Vermont officials late last month brought together a 12th of the state's teachers to brief them on their pioneering assessment program.

The mathematics and writing assessment, which is scheduled to begin on a pilot basis in about 135 schools next month, is being closely watched by educators across the country. It is the first statewide assessment to use portfolios, in addition to standardized tests, to measure student abilities.

Richard P. Mills, Vermont's commissioner of education, said the project is aimed at providing parents and policymakers with a broader gauge of student knowledge and skills than traditional tests provide.

If it is successful, he said, it could encourage teachers and students to work together to raise the level of student achievement in the state.

"This is a vast conspiracy to boost the performance of every single child in Vermont," Mr. Mills said. "What we're looking at is not high test scores, but great schools."

Many of the 500 teachers who met here appeared enthusiastic about the project. Officials noted that, although the state had chosen only 48 schools to participate in the pilot project, nearly 90 additional schools asked to join.

Several teachers expressed concern, however, that current school schedules offer too little time for them to work with students to develop portfolios.

And some said they feared that they would be evaluated on the basis of the student work.

"This is a powerful tool to help children," said Franklin J. Chrisco, a 5th- and 6th-grade teacher at Brattleboro Elementary School. "I don't want teachers to avoid its use."

But Grant Wiggins, an assessment consultant based in Rochester, N.Y., told the teachers that the assessment system could

Continued on Page 18

Justices Consider When To Declare Districts 'Unitary'

Arguments Are Heard In Oklahoma City Case

By Tom Mirga

WASHINGTON—School districts that were once racially segregated by law should remain bound by court desegregation orders until every wrong caused by the separation of races is cured, a lawyer for black schoolchildren in Oklahoma City told the U.S. Supreme Court last week.

Responding to a hypothetical question posed by Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Julius L. Chambers of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund conceded that if his argument won the day, orders in such cases could conceivably remain in force for 100 years or more if the effects of segregation persisted that long.

Desegregation orders "must remain until all of the vestiges are eliminated," Mr. Chambers said. "We have no idea how long [they have] to remain in effect."

A majority of the Justices, however, appeared not to be swayed by Mr. Chambers's position during arguments in *Board of Education of Oklahoma City* v. *Dowell* (Case No. 89-1080), a case that could resolve some of the last remaining key issues in school-desegregation law—namely, what steps a formerly segregated district must take in order to be declared "unitary," or fully integrated; and what desegregation obligations, if any, such a district has after it has attained that status.

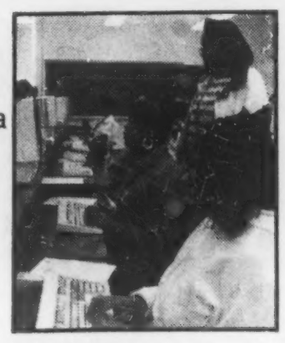
In contrast to Mr. Chambers's argument, lawyers for the Oklahoma City school board and the Bush Administration maintained that districts should be freed from court supervision after they have made a "good faith" effort over a sustained period to com-

Continued on Page 24

Also in the news

5 **School-Based Child Care**
Tulsa, Okla., officials are laying plans for what could be the nation's largest citywide system.

8 **Serving The Public**
A District of Columbia program trains students for careers in civil service.



19 **Back to Square One**
The E.D. will reopen the competition for a new center on the dissemination of research.

Teachers' Unions Jockey To Sway Races in Pivotal Election Year

By Peter Schmidt

Sensing a once-in-a-generation opportunity to influence both state and national education policy, the two major teachers' unions and their state affiliates are mounting intensive efforts this fall to affect the outcomes of many of the nation's 36 gubernatorial elections.

The heightened role of governors in education reform and their strategic position in the upcoming battles over Congressional and state-legislative redistricting have created major stakes for the unions, say political operatives for the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers.

Moreover, the presence of a substantial number of open governor's chairs—13—has left a fertile field for the financial support and formidable organizational muscle of the state affiliates.

"The stakes for the A.F.T. could not be higher this election year," said Rachelle Horowitz, political director of the union.

"This opportunity, as we view it, only rolls around every 20 years," said Mickey Ibarra, political-advocacy manager for the N.E.A. office of governmental relations. "When we have 36 governorships up, that's

ELECTION **90**

a big piece of business."

While the two national unions share a common commitment to the gubernatorial races, their efforts have revealed a significant difference in emphasis.

The A.F.T., through its national Governors Project, has sought to find and support candidates who agree with the union's stand both on bread-and-butter issues and on broader reform goals.

Although the N.E.A. has not ignored those concerns, it has focused its energies on a different target—the balance of power in the U.S. House of Representatives. Union affiliates in California, Texas, and Florida in particular are going all-out to put Democratic governors at the helm of the redistricting process, which will shape the composition of those huge and growing House delegations for a decade.

Both unions have continued their traditional Democratic orientation, with N.E.A. affiliates giving only five of 30 endorsements to Republican candidates, and the A.F.T. two of 22. In addition, the N.E.A. affiliate in Connecticut is backing a former Republican senator, Lowell P. Weicker Jr., who is running as an independent.

Nevertheless, some political analysts see in this year's endorsements evidence of a slight shift to the G.O.P., both because of greater Republican interest in education is-

Continued on Page 17

IN SUMMARY

Deciding Not To Decide
College Board trustees have postponed a vote on a proposal to change the Scholastic Aptitude Test, sending mixed signals to those who expected them to adopt the revisions. **Page 5.**

Drug Testing for Teachers
Unions are challenging employee drug-screening policies, spurred a federal anti-drug law, that have recently been adopted by several school systems across the country. **Page 7.**

Save the Children
World leaders who met at the United Nations for an unprecedented meeting on the condition of children have pledged to fight hunger, poverty, disease, and illiteracy. **Page 10.**

Unfavorable Impression
Two state textbook panels have recommended against the adoption of *Impressions*, a widely used reading series that has been attacked by some parents and conservative groups. **Page 13.**

Under the Gun
New Jersey educators are under heavy pressure to ensure that a massive expansion and redistribution of state aid to urban schools actually makes a difference. **Page 13.**

Choosing Against 'Choice'
Oregon's powerful state teachers' union is working hard to defeat a controversial "choice" initiative that includes the most extensive state program for private-school choice in the nation. **Page 16.**

Budget Chaos
The House last week overwhelmingly rejected the bipartisan deficit-reduction agreement, throwing the budget process into chaos and increasing the odds of a federal shutdown. **Page 21.**

Books	27
Capital Update	23
Commentary	25 and 36
Deadlines	30
Events	29
Federal File	19
Honors	29
Letters	28
Marketplace	31
State Journal	13
Teachers	6
Technology	11
Testing	9

EDUCATION WEEK (ISSN 0277-4232) is published 40 times per year (weekly except for the first week in January, the last week in June, the month of July, the first four weeks in August, and the last two weeks in December) by Editorial Projects in Education, Incorporated. Editorial and advertising sales offices are located at 4301 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 250, Washington, D.C. 20008. (202) 364-4114. Subscriptions: U.S.: $49.94 for 40 issues. Canada: $72.94 for 40 issues. Foreign: $114.94 (airmail) and $82.94 (surface mail) for 40 issues. Second-class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to EDUCATION WEEK, P.O. Box 2083, Marion, Ohio 43305. Volume X, Issue 6.

ACROSS THE NATION

NATIONAL

Children Remain Hardest Hit By Poverty, U.S. Report Finds

Children made up nearly 40 percent of the nation's poor in 1989, a new U.S. Census Bureau report shows.

Together, children under age 18 and those ages 65 or older made up half of those living in poverty in the United States last year, the report released last month said. Children accounted for 39.9 percent of the nation's poor, and the elderly made up 10.7 percent of the total, according to census data collected this year.

The poverty rate for children—19.6 percent—continued, as it has since 1975, to be higher than for any other age group, the data show. That rate is unchanged from 1988.

About 14.2 percent of all white children were in families living below the poverty level in 1989, compared with 36.2 percent of children of Hispanic origin and 43.7 percent of black children, the study says.

The census report also includes data showing that poverty rates decrease dramatically as years of school completed increases.

In 1989, the poverty rate was 20.7 percent for heads of households who had not completed high school, 8.9 percent for those who had graduated from high school but not attended college, and 3.6 percent for those with at least one year of college.

■ **American students are three times more likely to take computer, economics, and business classes than their Japanese counterparts and express more confidence in the education they are receiving,** according to a new survey.

The findings of the Junior Achievement-Gallup International Youth survey of 750 American and 790 Japanese junior- and senior-high-school students sharply depart from the conventional wisdom regarding the two educational systems.

The survey, released last month, found that 56 percent of U.S. students, but only 44 percent of Japanese students, have a "great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in public schools.

It also showed higher career aspirations among American children. Eighty-one percent of U.S. students polled planned to attend college either full- or part-time, compared with 68 percent of the Japanese students. About 65 percent of Americans said they foresee professional or managerial careers, compared with only 26 percent of the Japanese surveyed.

Voicing skepticism about what conclusions can be drawn from the survey results, John E. Chubb said in an interview that opinions and aspirations do not challenge the facts. American optimism may be blind, added the co-author of a Brookings Institution report earlier this year that was sharply critical of U.S. public schools.

"By most standards, Japanese students are doing better than American students," Mr. Chubb said.

The telephone survey was conducted last February and included a cross-section of students from both countries.

STATES

$2.3-Million Grant Establishes Center for School Change in Minn.

The Blandin Foundation, a Minnesota-based philanthropy that focuses on rural issues, has given $2.3 million to the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota to establish a Center for School Change.

The five-year grant is intended to produce "dramatic improvement in Minnesota's public schools," Paul Olson, the foundation's president, said in announcing the grant.

"This is not a grant about educational theory," he added. "It will help educators and communities build new kinds of educational programs."

While most of the emphasis will be on rural communities, Mr. Olson said, the ideas funded by the center could be replicated in urban districts.

Joe Nathan, a senior fellow at the institute and a member of President Bush's advisory committee on education, will be the center's director.

The center's funds will go to develop models of restructured schools, provide funding to such projects, and pay for assessment studies and dissemination of the results.

The center will also sponsor a series of meetings in the state on school-reform issues.

Grants of $15,000 to $20,000 each will go to approximately 30 districts next year to develop new ideas for improving schools. Additional grants are expected in following years. The institute also plans to provide training for educators carrying out the ideas.

■ **James W. Dyke Jr., Virginia's secretary of education, has recommended that the state board of education consider adopting a year-round school schedule.**

Mr. Dyke urged the state board to study whether a school year with short vacations spaced throughout the year would help prevent Virginia students from losing academic ground over the long summer break.

The board agreed to study Mr. Dyke's recommendations, which also included overhauling high-school programs to better prepare students who do not plan to attend college.

■ **Establishing year-round classes will be easier for rapidly growing Texas school districts in light of the state education board's decision to assist districts interested in the alternative schedule.**

Adopted last month, the board's decision would alter testing calendars and allow state education officials to adapt regulations to conform to year-round schedules.

Under the plan, student vacations in districts that adopt the year-round calendar would be staggered to reduce class sizes, but students would be required to attend the same number of school days. Two more readings of the plan are required for final approval.

In addition to the classroom modifications, the Texas plan also would allow students to participate in extracurricular activities even if the events occurred during scheduled vacations, state officials said.

■ **Superintendent of Public Instruction William B. Keene of Delaware resigned last month, four months after the resignation was announced in a haze of uncertainty by Gov. Michael N. Castle.**

When Mr. Castle announced Mr. Keene's resignation last May, the superintendent refused to say whether he would be departing. Instead, Mr. Keene—who, with 10 years in office, was one of the nation's senior state chiefs—would acknowledge only that the state board had renewed his contract for one more year.

The two men had disagreed over a number of issues. Elizabeth Bingham, a spokesman for the Governor, noted last spring that Mr. Castle had "not been entirely pleased" with Mr. Keene's performance, and that the Governor would be "looking for new leadership in education."

Mr. Keene's resignation takes effect Dec. 31, at which time he will join the University of Delaware as special assistant to the dean of the College of Education.

Picture This

More than 50,000 elementary- and middle-school teachers took part in the "Great Invent America! Think Link," a satellite training conference held in 2,200 communities last week. Above, elementary-school teachers from Alexandria, Va., participate in an interactive workshop on how photography can be used in the classroom to inspire creativity. The event was sponsored by K Mart, Polaroid Corporation, LEGO Systems Inc., and the Pepsi-Cola Company.

DISTRICTS

St. Louis Officials Ponder Staff Cuts In Light of Ruling on Bond Issue

St. Louis school officials say they may be forced to consider "massive" staff cuts and layoffs as the result of a state appeals-court ruling that invalidated a $100-million bond issue they hoped to float in order to pay for the district's desegregation efforts.

The state court of appeals last month upheld a circuit-court ruling that a two-thirds majority was required to approve the bond issue. Sixty-one percent of the voters approved the bond issue.

School-board officials said that, unless they appeal successfully to the state Supreme Court, they might have to consider such alternative strategies as selling short-term bonds, taking the original measure back to the voters, or laying off large numbers of employees in order to keep the district's capital-improvements program on track.

The bond issue was to have helped pay for the district's share of $161 million in school improvements and renovations ordered by a U.S. District Court as part the district's desegregation plan.

■ **More than $155,000 was found missing last week from the accounts of a Des Moines high school in what state auditors have called one of the largest cases of misuse of public funds in state history.**

An audit of the books at Lincoln High School showed that during the period from Dec. 11, 1987, to April 4, 1990, the school was short $155,192, more than six times the $23,644 the school's own audit found missing last April, said Richard Johnson, a state auditor.

A former employee agreed to pay back the smaller amount after a meeting with school administrators last spring. Mr. Johnson said the school did not notify the state of the meeting or of the missing funds, and thus violated state law.

The state is considering possible sanctions against the school's administrators.

The funds disappeared when school receipts were altered, money was not deposited into school accounts, and money was paid out without adequate documentation, Mr. Johnson said.

■ **Nearly one-quarter of more than 1,000 inner-city students in Chicago recently surveyed said they had seen someone killed.**

A study based on the survey, which was presented at a conference on at-risk children at Meharry Medical College in Nashville last week, found that 35 percent of the middle- and high-school students surveyed said they had witnessed a stabbing, and 39 percent said they had seen a shooting.

Nearly half of the students said they themselves had been the victim of a violent act, the report said.

The report, presented by two researchers affiliated with the Community Mental Health Council of Chicago, concludes that these children rarely are given the mental-health resources they need to cope with their surroundings. Children who witness violent acts, the report said, are far more likely than their peers to engage in violent activities when they are older.

■ **A federal appeals court has sided with the Nashville school district that local schools should be considered for a learning-disabled teenager who sued to be educated at a private school at district expense.**

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit held this month that the Metropolitan Nashville School District need not obey the finding of a state education department administrative law judge that Curtis Cook be educated at a private school in Carbondale, Ill., at district expense.

Mr. Cook and his parents had argued that his needs could best be met at the Illinois school.

The court also upheld a lower-court order that the multidisciplinary team reviewing the educational arrangements for Mr. Cook consider two Nashville public schools in addition to the Illinois school.

UPDATE

■ **An attempt to place a binding referendum before Boston voters asking for a change in the makeup of the Boston School Committee has been defeated by Massachusetts lawmakers**, whose approval of the measure was necessary to place it on next month's ballot. *(See Education Week, Sept. 19, 1990.)*

The Boston City Council, Mayor Raymond L. Flynn, and the Massachusetts board of education had approved the proposal, which would have replaced the current 13-member committee with a nine-member board of both elected and mayorally appointed members. It also would have given parents a greater role in selecting school principals.

The Boston Teachers Union objected to that provision, while several lawmakers said the measure had been drafted too hastily.

■ **The New Jersey School Boards Association has agreed to strengthen its auditing procedures and reduce the size of its board of directors** in response to charges by a state panel that the group wasted hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' dollars on questionable expenses and investments.

In May, a state investigative panel called for the dismissal of the organization's director following a two-year probe of the alleged misuse of funds at the taxpayer-financed organization. The panel charged that Octavius T. Reid Jr. improperly used association money to finance an extravagant lifestyle and that he mismanaged the association's insurance pool. Mr. Reid, who later resigned, has denied all charges. *(See Education Week, May 16, 1990.)*

In response, the association formed a committee to make recommendations. This month, the association endorsed the committee's findings that it form an audit committee and prepare detailed monthly financial reports. In the past, the reports were issued quarterly and did not detail expenses.

The group also agreed to form an ethics committee and to reduce from 32 to an unspecified number the number of directors.

The board also filed suit in state court this month against Mr. Reid, charging that he had violated his resignation agreement with the association.

The board represents 616 school boards in the state, which pay dues to support the association's operations.

■ **Six dairies will pay Alabama more than $3 million to settle a lawsuit accusing them of fixing the price of milk sold to school districts statewide.**

The dairies admitted no wrongdoing.

The lawsuit, filed last November in U.S. District Court in Montgomery, charged a total of eight dairies with dividing the state's districts among themselves and agreeing in advance which firm would enter the lowest bid for the milk contract with a given district. *(See Education Week, Dec. 6, 1989.)*

The alleged scheme inflated milk prices by one to two cents per half-pint carton, and the settlement money will flow directly to the districts, said John Crowder, a Mobile lawyer who helped prosecute the case for the state.

The firms that have settled are Barber Pure Milk Company and Baker and Sons Dairy Inc., both of Birmingham; Borden Inc. and Meadow Gold Dairies Inc., both of Columbus, Ohio; Kinnet Dairies Inc. of Columbus, Ga.; and Dairy Fresh Corporation of Hale County, Ala.

Two other firms—Cloverleaf Dairies Inc. of Dallas County, Ala., and Flav-O-Rich Dairy Inc. of Louisville, Ky.—have yet to settle, although they are expected to do so, Mr. Crowder said.

■ **The Rochester Teachers Association, which recently rejected a three-year contract that would have tied teachers' pay to performance, will ask that the school district join the union in declaring an impasse in negotiations in order to resume talks on a new contract.** *(See Education Week, Oct. 3, 1990.)*

If an impasse is declared, the state will send a mediator to Rochester to help the two sides agree on a new contract. Adam Urbanski, president of the R.T.A., said he will press in negotiations to create a system of accountability that focuses on schools' performance as measured by student achievement.

Mr. Urbanski said he expected that the talks would center on creating a system of "shared accountability," using some of the suggestions made in a recent report by a joint union-school district task force that examined the issue.

DIMENSIONS

Children and Grandparents

Black children in the United States are much more likely to live with their grandparents than are their white or Hispanic peers, according to a report by the U.S. Census Bureau.

About 13 percent of black children under age 18 lived in their grandparents' homes last year, compared with 3 percent of white and 5 percent of Hispanic children, the report says.

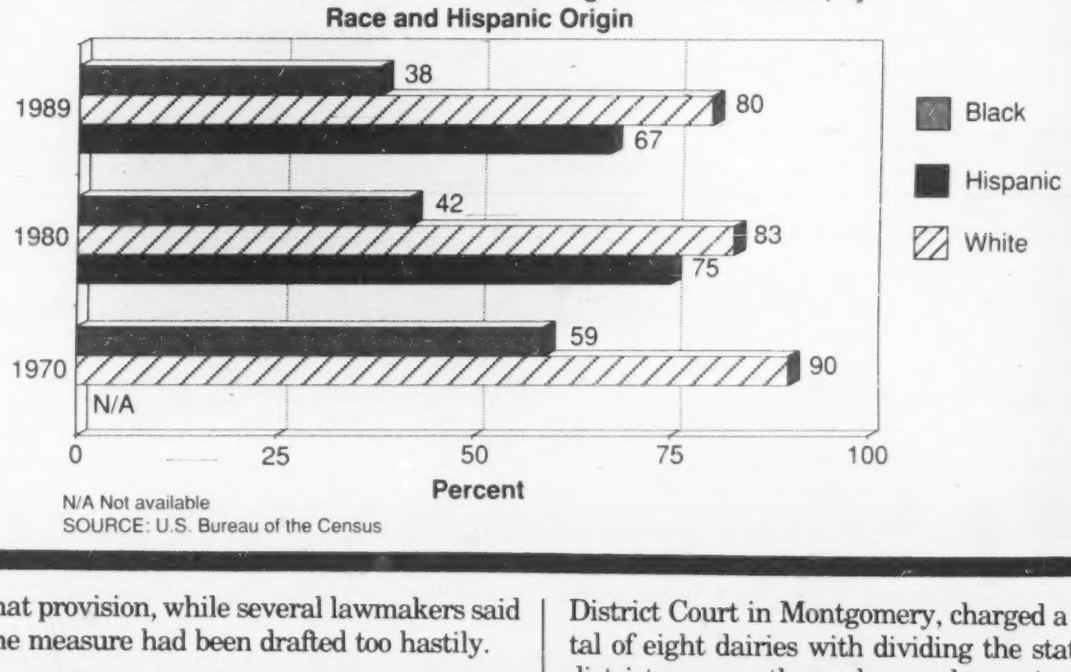
About half of these 1.2 million children had their mother present in the home, 38 percent had neither parent present, 4 percent had both parents living with them, and 3 percent had only their father present.

The findings underscore the continuing decrease in the proportion of black children who live with both parents, the report says. Last year, about 38 percent of the nation's 9.8 million black children lived with both parents, compared with 80 percent of white and 67 percent of Hispanic children. In 1970, 59 percent of black children lived with both parents.

The decline for black children was steepest in the 1970's, and tapered off in the 1980's, the report says.

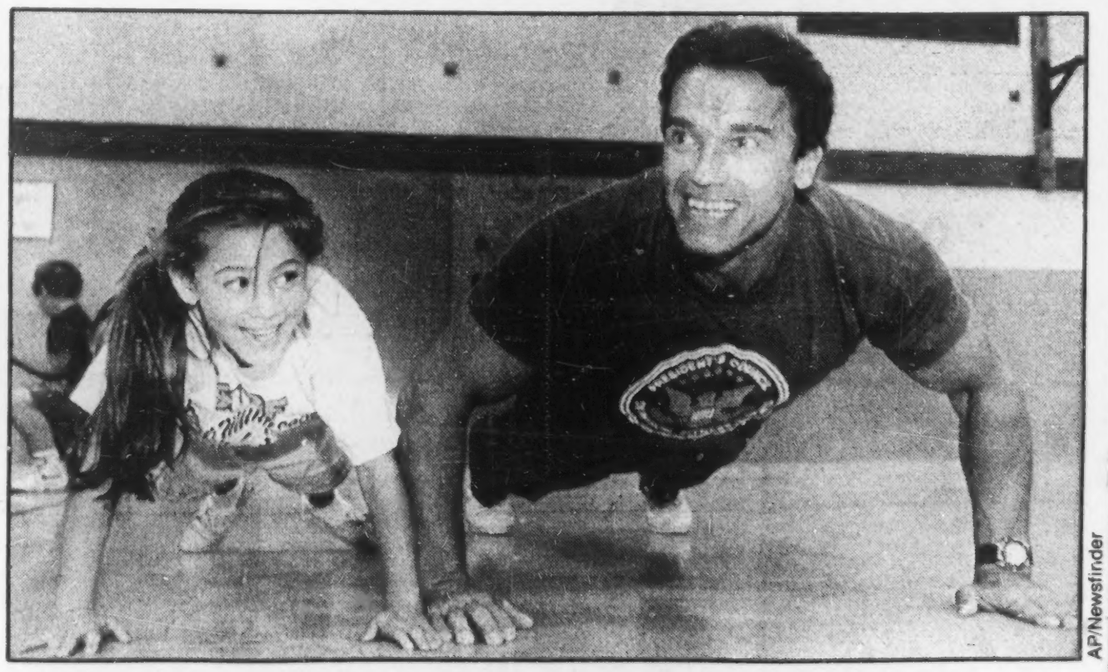
Copies of the report, "Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1989," series P-20, No. 445 (GPO stock no. 803-005-00044-3), are available for $5 each, prepaid, from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Percent of Children Under 18 Years Living With Both Parents, by Race and Hispanic Origin



N/A Not available
SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Big Help



AP/Newsfinder

Arnold Schwarzenegger, movie star and chairman of the President's Council on Physical Fitness, gives pointers on pushups to a 3rd grader at Van Hise Elementary School in Madison, Wis., recently. The former Mr. Universe was on a weeklong, nine-state tour promoting better physical-fitness programs in schools.